



# hilights

A MAGAZINE FOR HISTON & IMPINGTON



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Photo: The sycamore 'habitat monolith' in Long Meadow. ©Guy Richardson



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begin | p5

ISSN 2976-7407



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Histon & Impington

# Welcome



## Dear reader

WELCOME to **hilights** magazine. It's with great pleasure that we have arrived at the launch of this new publication. In it we will be sharing a mixture of articles, news and information, all of it selected and written to be directly relevant to the local community.

In this very first issue we want to say a huge 'thank you' to absolutely everyone who has helped to turn the vision for **hilights** into reality, starting with our advertisers and sponsors.

The business community is key to the sustainability of our local economy. Their efforts mean we can all 'shop local' and benefit from trusted suppliers who have made a commitment to serving the residents of this village. But like the rest of us, they too are facing the cost of living crisis and the difficult economic circumstances facing the whole country. Their advertising supports the publication of **hilights**, and we urge you to repay this compliment by remembering them

when you are looking for the type of products and services they provide.

In these days when time is such a precious commodity, it's also been heart-warming that so many people have stepped forward to make sure **hilights** could get off the ground. Special thanks go to the many volunteers who have invested huge amounts of time and effort creating the content for you and delivering the magazine to every household in the village.

Kate and Ruth, our core sales and admin team, have been at the heart of operations, setting up new systems and trying to ensure that everyone who has contacted us has had a warm and professional response to their questions. We're also delighted to have formed new relationships with CAM Design Studio and Print-Out, who have been so helpful getting this first issue into print.

Last but not least our thanks go to the Parish Council for working with us to start sharing their news and information about the work that our elected representatives

are doing to engage with the community and create positive changes in the village.

Do keep in touch. Send us your news and feedback to [admin@hihub.info](mailto:admin@hihub.info), or drop a note into Print-Out (clearly marked for the attention of **hilights**) if you aren't online. This is your magazine and we look forward to serving you in the years ahead.

## Liz Hill

Chair, HI HUB



*The HI HUB board: L-R Brian Whitehead, Denis Payne, Liz Hill, Amanda Borrill, Chris Cox*

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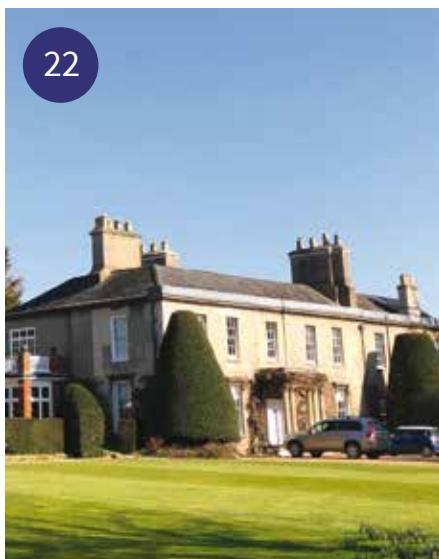
So whether you're selling, letting, buying or renting, why not drop in for a chat? Our door is always open for advice on homes in the village and beyond.

**Find us at 19 High Street, call Marcus on 01223 214400 or 07944 038221 or email [marcus.stamp@tylers.net](mailto:marcus.stamp@tylers.net)**



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## Dates and deadlines: Christmas issue 2023

Publication date – **17 November**

Editorial submission deadline – **22 September**

Advertising booking deadline – **22 September**

Artwork submission deadline – **1 October**



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# hilights

Issue 01, September 2023

## Publisher

Histon & Impington Communications CIC,  
t/a HI HUB  
Mail: c/o Print-Out 8–10 High Street,  
Histon, Cambridge CB24 9JD

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admin@hihub.info  
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## Advertising rates, data and booking

For details, see [www.hihub.info/hi-lights-advertising-booking-form/](http://www.hihub.info/hi-lights-advertising-booking-form/)

## Print

Print-Out, Histon  
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01223 232709

## Design

CAM Design Studio  
[www.camdesignstudio.co.uk](http://www.camdesignstudio.co.uk)  
07921 861076

hilights is published four times each year.

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ISSN 2976-7407 | [www.hihub.info](http://www.hihub.info)



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# Latest news

## New direction for Camtrust

Impington-based Camtrust is setting up a new scheme offering their clients opportunities for work experience with supportive local businesses.

The charity helps adults with physical disabilities and learning difficulties to develop life skills and be integrated into the community. They see the best way of achieving that is by opening up opportunities for employment in either the voluntary or paid sector.

Camtrust is no stranger to working with the local community. In June, their Open Day showcased a sensory garden, created with support from several local groups and businesses, including Histon Plants, who donated the plants and has offered ongoing support and expert advice.

With funding from Cambridgeshire County Council and donations from Cambridge Colleges, Camtrust has now been able to appoint Claire (*pictured*), previously one of their staff tutors, as Work Experience Leader. One of her first tasks will be to identify, visit and hopefully secure local businesses to partner with.

The programme is due to start on 19 September and run initially for 12 months, but the ambition is to extend this if enough business and/or funding can be secured to support the position into the future.

Contact Claire or Lilly at Camtrust to offer work experience opportunities. 01223 236786



## Pump track team looks for land

Local residents hoping to create a pump track for Histon & Impington have had their application to become a charity approved, meaning they can now set up a bank account and start fundraising for the project.

Calls for a pump track were highlighted in a Parish Council consultation on recreation in the village and the charity aims to create a social space suitable for families, children and teenagers, including disabled users.

A major hurdle is the limited land available in the village. Some sites on public land are already being reviewed, but the group is keen to hear about other possible options on privately owned land. The track could be within an open space or in amongst trees. Anyone with information about potentially suitable places should contact them via their website [hipumptrack.uk/contact-us/](http://hipumptrack.uk/contact-us/)

## The Great Escape

Late July saw the community counting sheep after the break-out of five rare breed Soays from a field in Impington. Sightings came in from across the villages with one escapee caught on camera on a visit to Histon's King Bill pub.

Sheep owner Will Dickinson said: "I'm so relieved to have them all back. Livewire Mary gave us the runaround for three days but after a lot of help she was found near IVC and reunited with the gang."



## Music groups start Christmas rehearsals

Choir 2000, the village's 100-strong community choir, will start preparations for its Christmas programme on 4 October, under the baton of dynamic Musical Director Chloe Allison. All over-18s with an interest in choral music are invited to join them for autumn rehearsals at Histon Baptist Church, and more male voices would be especially welcome. This autumn they will be preparing for an Evensong at Ely Cathedral in October, and Bach's 'Magnificat' plus traditional carols at Christmas concerts on 8 and 9 December.

One of the UK's leading mandolin orchestras, Histon-based Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra, is also welcoming new members. Founded some 20 years ago, The 'Moonlights' play plucked string instruments including mandolins, but also mandolas, guitars and bass. They are now preparing for their first CD recording and will be delivering a Christmas Special in the village. Contact Choir 2000 at [www.choir2000.org](http://www.choir2000.org) and Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra at [www.moonlightmandolins.org](http://www.moonlightmandolins.org)

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# News review

Been away? Too busy to keep up with the local news? Having some digital downtime? Here's a snapshot of some stories you may have missed over the past few months.



To read these and other news stories in full, go to [www.hihub.info/news](http://www.hihub.info/news) or scan the QR code

## Residents endorse 20mph for 'safer streets'

Over 70% of HI residents are in favour of introducing more speed-reducing measures according to a recent survey on plans to implement a parish-wide 20mph zone.



## Bright future assured for Histon Smokehouse

Histon Smokehouse is under new ownership, with village residents and Cambridge restaurateurs Vilas and Nalin Patel taking over following the departure of Simon Morrice.

## Inclusive football set to grow at Histon Hornets

A 16-strong squad of adult players who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, have cerebral palsy, a mental health condition or learning disability, are joining Histon Hornets FC for the 2023/24 season.

## Plans take shape for celebrating village heroes

A 'blue plaque' scheme commemorating the achievements of local residents could serve as a lasting tribute to the people and places that have shaped the community.

## School for 'brickies' opens next to Histon FC

Cambridgeshire's first 'real-life' bricklaying apprenticeship training hub has opened next door to Histon Football Club on Bridge Road, offering hands-on training and skills to combat the housing shortage.

## Community effort sees sensory garden spring into life

Clients staff and volunteers at Impington-based charity Camtrust are enjoying a new sensory garden thanks to grants and other support from local organisations and volunteer groups.

## Village homes targeted by a 'gang of youths'

A spate of anti-social behaviour around Histon & Impington has included houses being egged, broken glass in the community orchard and rubbish in public spaces, as well as late-night noise, random door knocking and other disruption in residential streets.



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# Your council



[hisimp-pc.gov.uk/](http://hisimp-pc.gov.uk/)

## Chairman's Report to 31st March 2023

I started my last report with 'We're in a very different place to a year ago', says Denis Payne, and I really want to say the same again! The Council has changed a lot over the last year.

The Council comes up for election every 4 years and 2022 was one of those. Rarely do we have a poll, where electors get to vote, but we did this year. We are still the two Parishes of Histon & Impington, but the poll was just in Impington – the first since 1987 – where there were more candidates than seats. Histon had the same number of candidates as seats – so no poll.

At the same time, a number of established Councillors stood down from both Histon and Impington. We've lost tens of years of experience and knowledge as a result, but have a splendid set of new Councillors – almost half the Council.

### Communications

The Council has also started to change how it communicates and interacts with the community. Recent issues of HisImp News have included reports from the committees, increasing the visibility of both what we've done, and what we're planning. And online consultations have gauged residents' views on matters that will affect them, particularly around highways.

hilights magazine will carry Council content and material that was previously in HisImp News, and, as a result, the Council will cease publishing HisImp News. This will allow



Council to focus on what it wants to tell the community without having to worry about spreading the news.

### Green spaces

The other major item that took a great deal of Councillor time this year was support for Histon & Impington Green Spaces (HIGS). Both Long Meadow and the Croft Close Set Aside land were leased from Anthony Jenking, funded by the Council, whilst HIGS was raising the cash to acquire them. Long Meadow, thanks to the generosity of Sally London, was transferred early on. However, it took much longer to raise the necessary funds for Croft Close Set Aside and Council agreed to not seek repayment of money it had spent on works associated with HIGS. As a result, both pieces of land are now under the control of the trustees and no longer need Council funding.

### Creating history

Returning to my last year's report – I covered plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. That, the community did, and a good time was had by many. What we didn't know was that we'd shortly be mourning the death of the Queen after over 70 years on the throne. For many, she was the only monarch we'd known, so new to most of us were the

processes to announce the accession of King Charles III. We took the opportunity to create a little bit of local history when I, as Council Chairman, read the proclamation of the accession to a crowd of several hundred at the village green. I was quoted in HI HUB: "*I feel very honoured at being able to do this at this saddest of times. It was good that so many, from the very young upwards, were able to be there along with also most of the local clergy. Being together with friends is so important on such an occasion. I do hope that Histon & Impington will continue to honour this tradition next time around.*"

### Thank you – and goodbye

I'd like to close by thanking you, the community, for everything you have done; all of the councillors working so hard for the community at County, District and Parish levels; our office and grounds teams for all that they do – whether visible or not. And also for HI HUB and the village Facebook groups for keeping us in touch – and amused.

And finally, this is my last Chairman's report for Histon & Impington. Our Standing Orders – the rules by which the Council operates – limit the term of Council or Committee Chairs to four years, and I am at the end of mine. Having argued for that to be included in our Standing Orders you might say that I'm "*hoist with my own petard*", but it is good for change to happen. I will be staying on Council until 2026, but do not currently plan to stand for election then.



Denis Payne, Chairman Histon & Impington Parish Council

## Managing the money

In 2022/23 The Parish Council was responsible for income worth more than £464,000. The table below shows where the money came from – and where it's been spent.

### End of Year Accounts 2022-23

Figures are provisional and subject to audit. Also, in May 2022, after the election of the new Council, we restructured our Committees and the information below reflects that new committee structure.

Expenditure	Income
<b>Finance, Governance and Legal (now includes the Admin budget)</b>	<b>Council Tax/Precept</b> £399,661
<b>Public Work loans – capital and interest payments</b>	<b>Interest</b> £11,825
<b>Land Assets and Infrastructure</b>	<b>Recreation Ground – Club receipts</b> £16,384
<b>Nature and Biodiversity</b>	<b>Recreation Ground – Ground takings</b> £2,229
<b>Planning</b>	<b>Recreation Ground – Sports courts fees</b> £13,647
<b>Wellbeing, Recreation and Leisure</b>	<b>Recreation Ground – Pavilion hire</b> £7,525
<b>Youth</b>	<b>Burial Ground fees</b> £5,292
<b>Community Support – Village Warden Scheme</b>	<b>Allotment Rents</b> £666
<b>Community Support – HI Friends Older Person Worker, Dementia Support, Wellbeing Team</b>	<b>Village Green Hire</b> £600
<b>Donations</b> – HI HUB £1,000 for screen in library; COVID 19 volunteers thank you party £141.41; Cambs SAR £300; Cogwheel Trust £500; Royal British Legion £100	<b>Refuse Collection School Hill</b> £1,950
<b>Section 106 spend</b> – Abbey Fields £3,083.30; Infant School field legal fees, lease and maintenance £4,015.44; Office refurbishment £767.81; new lights in Pavilion £1,374.27	<b>Grass Cutting Grant from CCC</b> £2,851
<b>Specified Reserve spend</b> – new lawnmower at Recreation Ground £4,250; Abbey Fields costs £8,721	<b>Asset income</b> £1,431
<b>General Reserve spend</b> – * see details below	<b>Total income</b> £464,061
<b>Total expenditure</b> £434,260	<b>Surplus/Deficit for year</b> £29,802
Closing balance 2021–2022 £937,718	Balance Carried forward as of 31.03.23 £967,600

\* The General Reserve spend is broken down as follows:

Rec Play Area fencing £7,000; Grass Court fencing replacement and new path lights £9,888.73; Lights in big tree on The Green and installation £2,426.40; Design work for School Hill £410.60; Work on drainage ditches at Recreation Ground and scarifying of courts and pitches after dry summer £3,022.47; Application fee for Highways bid £500; training on road closures £996; new diesel tank for Recreation ground £2,950.



## Parish Office

### Opening hours

Monday–Thursday 9.30am–3pm

### Telephone

01223 235906



[hisimp-pc.gov.uk](http://hisimp-pc.gov.uk)



### Contacts

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[asst.groundsman@hisimp-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asst.groundsman@hisimp-pc.gov.uk)

## Council & Committee Meetings

*All meetings are held in the Recreation Ground Community Room*

### Dates

#### Finance, Governance and Legal

7.30pm Monday 25 September,  
4 December

#### Planning and Development Consultation

7.30pm Tuesday 29 August, 19 September,  
10 October, 31 October, 21 November,  
12 December

#### Full Council

7.30pm Monday 18 September, 16 October,  
20 November. Refreshments are served  
from 7pm

#### Highways, Drainage and Formal Spaces

7.30pm Tuesday 12 September,  
7 November

#### Nature and Biodiversity

7.30pm Tuesday 3 October, 14 November

#### Wellbeing, Recreation and Leisure

7.30pm Monday 4 September, 6 November

#### See website for details

[www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk)

*Please note: Committee meeting dates are subject to change. Notice of changes are posted on the website and events page.*

## In detail

**The Parish Council services a series of loans taken out to fund the development at the Recreation Ground from 2005. These loans will be fully paid off in 2030 if the Council does not take out any more loans and merge all the loans together. The payments this year for all loans amounted to £28,667.**

There are also sums of £224,727.13 in various Section 106 funds, which is funding provided by developers which must be spent on specific projects within a 10-year time frame on various community focused areas.

This leaves a general reserves fund of £442,833.77. The advice from Auditors is to maintain a general reserves fund of at least 50% of annual precept, which for 22–23 would be £199,830.50.

The precept for 2023/24 for Histon and Impington is for £411,743.61 and has increased by 2.9%. Our expenses budget largely matches the amount requested for precept. The Council's plans for capital projects will need to

be partially funded from the general reserves fund, and the Finance, Governance and Legal committee will monitor any requests for capital spend in the coming year.

Our main sources of income are from the Parish Precept (the parish part of the Council Tax bill provided by South Cambs District Council), facilities charges including the Recreation Ground, Sport Club fees, Burial Ground fees, allotment fees, and grants.

We are keen to obtain more grant funding where available, and are lucky to be the recipients of a donation from the Friends of H&I Community, who run a variety of community events and fundraisers in the village, as well as an ever growing choice of classes in our Community Room such as the Stroke Recovery Group and Chair Based Activity Class, Table Tennis, Tai Chi classes, Memory & Co-Ordination Group and Dance & Fitness Class. The Council itself financially supports Youth services and the Age UK Village Warden Scheme.

## Chair's Report

It is a pleasure to be writing a short update for the new **hilights** magazine, which Histon & Impington Parish Council supported.

When the new Parish Council Committees were formed in May 2022, it was hoped that they would work cross-functionally. This cross-functionality is increasingly working well, with our June Parish Council agenda bringing together recreation development and climate emergency consultations. We are also looking at changes in the way we work, with discussions on the role of Tree Officer and how we support the youth in our villages, which we hope will make the Parish Council more relevant to the community.

Delivering these innovative ideas needs good governance and information to ensure that we can maintain these projects in the long term. Our Finance, Governance and Legal Committee as well as the Employment & Transformation Committee are working with staff to ensure these projects are carefully budgeted for in the long term.

Since I have become Chair I have been chatting with lots of Councillors and



understand what changes and improvements they want to see for the Parish Council. We encourage residents to also raise ideas and comments for consideration, so we can understand your concerns and aspirations. We want to do all we can to further increase accessibility to facilities to residents of all ages.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please get in touch, and you are very welcome to attend our meetings, which may enable you to better understand how we work.

*Yvonne Murray, Chair  
Histon & Impington Parish  
Council*



## September date for hard court resurfacing

Resurfacing of the hard court on the Recreation Ground has been scheduled to start on Tuesday 28th August. The initial work will take 2 to 3 weeks to complete, depending on weather conditions. Once the tarmac surfacing is completed the court will be playable but a further three weeks is required for the surface to cure before the final painting can be done. After the new painted surface has been sprayed, contractors recommend no play for 4 days to allow the paint to fully dry.

The court will remain as a multi-sport playing surface, and this will not affect the use of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).



## Reporting ASB incidents

The Parish Office has recently received an increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour in the villages. Staff are keeping a log of incidents but the best course of action is to report immediately to 101 – or 999 if urgent – to ensure the Police have real-time information. This will result in Histon and Impington becoming a higher policing priority. Due to the recent increase in ASB, unmarked patrols are taking place in the villages.

## Parish Councillors

### Chair:

**Yvonne Murray** – Narrow Lane 237173

### Vice Chair:

**Edd Stonham** – Normanton Way 564534

### Councillors:

**Joseph Adam** – Mill Road c/o 235906

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**Aga Cahn** – Hereward Close 232186

**Steve Carrington** – Nuns Orchard c/o 235906

**Jennifer Crockford** – Park Avenue c/o 235906

**Walter Davey** – Park Avenue 234210

**Neil Davies** – Dwyer Joyce Close 232514

**Christopher Hobbs** – Lawson Close c/o 235906

**Simon Jocelyn** – Villa Place 232241

**David Legge** – Villa Road 233565

**James Leonard** – Henry Morris Road 561434

**Tom McKeown** – Normanton Way c/o 235906

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**Joe Uttridge** – New Road c/o 235906

**Louise Wilbraham** – Merton Road c/o 235906

*Parish Councillor email addresses are name.surname@hisimp-pc.gov.uk or can be found at [www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk)*

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[cllr.hansraj@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hansraj@scambs.gov.uk)

# District and County



## How to Grab a Grant



Voluntary and community groups and charities with a vision for how they can broaden their impact in the community have the chance to get some financial support for their ideas through South Cambs District Council. Non-profit groups with ideas for projects that could meet a local need and leave a legacy for the community can apply for money from the Council's Community Chest scheme. Various activities can be funded and this year's priorities include biodiversity projects and support for people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

The Council also encourages community organisations to search the Grant Grabber service provided by Support Cambridgeshire, a partnership between Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service and Hunts Forum. The service is free to users, who can search online for a wide range of funding sources. Find out more at [www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants)



## Histon Library opening hours

	<b>Staffed</b>	<b>Open+ access</b>
<b>Monday</b>	11am – 7pm	8am – 11am
<b>Tuesday</b>	2pm – 5pm	8am – 2pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Closed	Closed
<b>Thursday</b>	9am – 5pm	8am – 9am
<b>Friday</b>	9am – 1pm	8am to 9am and 1.15pm – 7pm
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## Bin collection dates

	<b>Black Bin</b>	<b>Blue Bin</b>	<b>Green Bin</b>
<b>Saturday 2 September</b>		✓	✓
<b>Friday 8 September</b>	✓		
<b>Friday 15 September</b>		✓	✓
<b>Friday 22 September</b>	✓		
<b>Friday 29 September</b>		✓	✓
<b>Friday 6 October</b>	✓		
<b>Friday 13 October</b>		✓	✓
<b>Friday 20 October</b>	✓		
<b>Friday 27 October</b>		✓	✓
<b>Friday 3 November</b>	✓		
<b>Friday 10 November</b>		✓	✓
<b>Friday 17 November</b>	✓		
<b>Friday 24 November</b>		✓	✓

## Milton recycling centre opening hours

	<b>Monday – Friday</b>	<b>Saturday – Sunday</b>
<b>September</b>	8am – 9pm	9am – 6pm
<b>October</b>	9am – 4pm	9am – 6pm
<b>November</b>	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm

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# Community in action

Whatever you're interested in, there's plenty going on in Histon & Impington, with busy autumn schedules to keep you involved and entertained.

There are more details of all the village's clubs, societies, charities and organisations in the HI HUB directory at [www.HIHUB.info](http://www.HIHUB.info)



For details of forthcoming events and a week-by-week calendar, see the HI HUB 'What's On' section at [www.hihub.info/whats-on](http://www.hihub.info/whats-on)



## Going on stage – and on the record!

Singing, dancing and nursery rhymes using shakers, pom poms, scarves and drums: these interactive live music sessions, complete with 5-piece band, are what the 'Shake Rattle and Roll' group for parents/carers and their babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers do on Friday mornings at Cambridgeshire Music in Histon.

They are now going one step further with an interactive family show celebrating the launch of 'GO GO RAINBOW' – their new album of original songs. Join them for a musical adventure as they sing, shout, boogie and bop their way around the magical 'Shakyverse'. With audience participation (grown-ups too!) and multisensory activities, there's fun for the whole family.

'Go Go Rainbow' is on Sunday 24 September, 11am at Storeys Field Centre, Eddington. For show tickets and info about weekly sessions: [www.shake-rattle-roll.org](http://www.shake-rattle-roll.org)



Alice Chapman

## Don't miss...

Every year, the regular features on the village calendar are met enthusiastically by the whole community. Dates for your diary this autumn are:

### Histon Beer Festival

**Monday 6 to Saturday 9 September at The Red Lion**

Beers, ciders, entertainment and a whole lot more will be in the familiar marquee in the Red Lion garden all week. And this year, the fun goes on until the Saturday night, when the Red Lion hosts a ceilidh. What's more, all profits go to village organisations and charities. What's not to like! [histonbeerfestival.co.uk](http://histonbeerfestival.co.uk)



Histon Beer Festival Committee

### Dahlia Festival and Village Show

**Sunday 17 September, Histon Manor, 1pm–4.30pm**

Such was the success of last year's revival of the Village Show at Histon Manor, that it's back in 2023. The efforts of the community's dahlia-growers, bakers and jam-makers will all be on display, and there's even a fancy dress competition and parade. All proceeds go to Camtrust, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

[www.histonmanor.com/community-events](http://www.histonmanor.com/community-events)



### Custard Comedy

**Friday 13 October, Impington Village College, doors open 7.30pm (18+ only)**

Need a good laugh? There's nowhere better than the ever-popular Custard Comedy, returning this year with Comedy Store regular Alistair Barrie as the headline act. There's a licensed bar, and all profits go to IVC's PSFA charity, which funds new books, sports equipment and wellness support for the school.

Tickets from [www.wegottickets.com/event/584437](http://www.wegottickets.com/event/584437)



### Fireworks Extravaganza

**Saturday 4 November, Impington Village College**

Once again the volunteer Fireworks Committee and its team of helpers is stepping up to provide this lucky village with a spectacular display. There will be food on sale to tempt you, and details of ticket sales will be on their website mid-September. Proceeds are shared between the village schools' PTAs.

[www.hifireworks.org.uk](http://www.hifireworks.org.uk)



### Bonfire Burn 10k run

**Sunday 5 November, Histon & Impington Recreation Ground**

Time still to get those running shoes out again and start training for the annual race which will see residents and visitors pound the streets of Histon & Impington to raise funds on behalf of local charity HI Friends. 600 runners took part last year. Will you be joining them? [www.bonfireburn10k.co.uk/event](http://www.bonfireburn10k.co.uk/event)



### Remembrance

**Saturday 11 November and Sunday 12 November, the War Memorial, Station Road**

The Histon & Impington branch of the Royal British Legion will be taking the lead in Remembrance events again this year, with Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday services at the War Memorial. They also organise the Poppy Appeal in the area, working with local organisations to sell poppies in the village. [branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/histon-and-impington](http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/histon-and-impington)



RBL/Dave Blakesley



## Calling all motorsport enthusiasts

Did you know... Cambridge Car Club, the local motorsport club, meets most Wednesday evenings in the Lounge Bar of the Red Lion. So if you fancy organising, competing and/or officiating at motorsport events in East Anglia, why not go along for a chat? *More info at [www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk](http://www.cambridgecarclub.co.uk)*

## Knitting it together – Fair Isle style



The village's enthusiastic HI Fibrecrafters who knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, spin and make lace (and post-box toppers) together, have plans for the autumn. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, join them to work together on Fair Isle knitting and knitting in the round. Or just join them to enjoy a cuppa and natter. *Meetings are alternate Wednesdays at Homefield Close Community Centre. See their Facebook page or email [hifibrecrafters@gmail.com](mailto:hifibrecrafters@gmail.com)*

## Baking up a Brownie badge



Jess and Izzy belong to two different Histon & Impington Brownie packs. Working towards their charity interest badge, they baked cup cakes and rice crispy cakes, then sold them on a stall on The Green, raising £122 for the Wildlife Trust BCN and British Red Cross.

When they're not busy with community service, the village brownies have fun times doing crafts and playing games at regular Brownie meetings. Special activities recently have included making and eating s'mores, leaving surprise gifts in the community, seeing a panto, and taking a trip to Hautbois Activity Centre, with its climbing walls, zip wire, and obstacle courses. *If your daughter would like to get involved in Girl Guiding, find more at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child)*

# More than just a great read



There's much more going on at Histon Library than just borrowing books, and now with an Open+ Access door system, it's open to all for much longer hours (see p11). Special events kick off in the autumn with a Finishers Ceremony at 3.45pm on Monday 25 September to celebrate the achievements of the young people who completed their Ready Set Read – Summer Reading Challenge.

Regular term-time events also resume after the summer break. The monthly Engage speaker sessions start Wednesday 20 September from 2pm–3.30pm with a 'Scam Awareness' session led by Nigel Sutton of Cambs Police. Rhyme time for the under-4s (and their parents or carers) starts at

10.30am–11am on 21 September, and after that monthly on the 3rd Thursday. And Histon Creative Writing Group gets going again on 27 September from 11am–1pm, with further meetings on the last Wednesday of the month. New this autumn is Interactive Storytime, a sensory session that will also run monthly, on the first Tuesday of each month.

Raising funds for the library and giving them wholehearted community support are Histon & Impington Library Friends who run regular book sales. Starting Saturday 9 September, these will continue on the second Saturday of each month from 10am–12noon at Histon Methodist Church, coinciding with the popular coffee mornings there. Book donations are warmly welcomed from 9:30am on the day. Weather permitting, there will be a special children's book sale on The Green on Wednesday 20 September 2.30pm–4:30pm too.

*Drop into the library to find out more. To join the Creative Writing session, email [barhill.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:barhill.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Contact HILF at [hisimplibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:hisimplibraryfriends@gmail.com).*

## Picking up the past

Sunday morning walks could be just that bit more interesting if you join the Histon & Impington Archaeology Group on their autumn fieldwalking sessions. Systematically walking across ploughed fields, they pick up any finds (hopefully treasures... mostly pottery) which have come to the surface.

HIAG is a friendly group of mainly amateur (and a few formally trained) archaeologists, who enjoy discovering more about village life in days gone by. They also run monthly Club Nights, fieldwork including test pit excavation and geophysical surveying, occasional visits and host regular speakers.

Their autumn programme starts Monday 9 October with Dr Sarah Fiddymt talking about 'The Beasts to Craft Project: using new technologies to examine the parchment of

medieval manuscripts', then on 13 November, Richard Mortimer will explore 'New thinking on the Cambridgeshire Dykes in their landscape context'.

Whether you're intrigued by the rich heritage of the local area or just looking for a new social activity, then why not give them a try? See [hiarchaeology.wordpress.com](http://hiarchaeology.wordpress.com) or email [hishisimp.archaeology.group@gmail.com](mailto:hishisimp.archaeology.group@gmail.com)



## Could you help kids play?

If you have two hours to spare on Monday afternoons then Opportunity Playgroup would love to meet you. Based at Saint Andrew's Centre, this small, friendly group gives pre-school children with disabilities/additional needs support to play while their parents take a break. And they need more volunteers. *Contact Play Leader, Sally Abbott at [sallyabbott@gmail.com](mailto:sallyabbott@gmail.com). See [www.opportunityplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.opportunityplaygroup.co.uk)*



# Active leisure – on two wheels or two feet

Autumn might be coming, but we don't have any excuse for hibernating. Throughout the year the Histon & Impington Bicycle Club runs sociable Sunday morning rides, mainly for novices, and more challenging Wednesday evening training rides for seasoned cyclists. The rides range from easy-paced to speedy, and distances from 40 to 70 miles, with longer rides involving a café stop. Nervous you won't keep up? Don't worry – non-members can join for a few trial Sunday rides before deciding to join the club.

And if you're keen to take it one step further, then off-road might be for you. Some members have picked up the gravel bug and explore local trails and racing cyclo-cross, while others have been to the Olympic Velodrome for track cycling experiences. They've even got their passports out and cycled in Majorca and Tenerife, aiming for one overseas tour each year.

Still not convinced? Then maybe it's running for you instead. HI Runners believe in running



for both physical and mental wellbeing, and support all members to achieve any goals they set themselves. Adult runners of all ages and abilities train on Wednesday evenings, starting from the Rec at 6.45pm, and can take part in regular weekend social runs too. And don't worry, you can drop by for a couple of taster sessions first to see if it's right for you. Contact the HI Bicycle Club on Facebook and join a WhatsApp group to keep up-to-date with what's going on. Find HI Runners at [hi-runners.co.uk](http://hi-runners.co.uk)

## Family trees

Regular maintenance sessions at the Community Orchard involve weeding, pruning, hedge trimming and laying, as well as preserving the benches and general tidying up. Volunteers – with or without green fingers – would be very welcome to help with this ongoing work, which means the orchard can be enjoyed by young and old, whether to relax, have a picnic or hold a family party. Helpers are also needed for popular fundraising events like the Wassail in January and 'Breakfast at the Orchard' in July. Interested? – then complete the contact form at [hicop.info/contact-hicop](http://hicop.info/contact-hicop)

## A warm WI welcome awaits you

You might expect a rousing rendition of Jerusalem at a WI meeting, but that's not what it's all about! Meeting and making friends with other forward-looking women while enjoying a full schedule of talks and activities is at the heart of the local branch meetings. The autumn programme starts Thursday 21 September with Geoff Lambert and his dog Buddy hosting an enticingly titled talk on Medical Detective Dogs. Then on 19 October Alan Gray will be telling Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire.

The WI meets 7.30pm at Histon Methodist Church Hall on the third Thursday of each month. Details from Secretary Helen Pinhey at [hisimpwi@gmail.com](mailto:hisimpwi@gmail.com)

## Giving thanks at the Harvest Festival



Histon Baptist Church

Feeling creative? Then why not bring something – a photo, poem, drawing or craft, for example – to Histon Baptist Church's Harvest Family Service & Lunch on Sunday 24 September at 10.30am. The church will be exhibiting these works to celebrate the creativity of God and ourselves, giving thanks for His generosity towards us at Harvest time. After the church service there will be a free bread and soup lunch, and all are encouraged to donate food for the Foodbank and Jimmy's. More info at [www.histonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.histonbaptist.org.uk)

## Youth Zone offers after-school activity

Youth workers are offering a variety of after-school activities each week of IVC school terms in the Community Room at the Rec. Sports, cooking, crafts, table tennis, pool and team challenges are on offer free of charge for young people in year groups 7 to 9 on Mondays from 3.30pm. This is followed by Yoga & Mindfulness for teens and pre-teens from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. For information and booking contact Pauline on 07985 947328 or [paulineyoga@gmail.com](mailto:paulineyoga@gmail.com)

## Gardeners get growing



Swetlana Hasenjäger

All are welcome to the autumn programme at Histon & Impington Garden Club, starting 12 September with an AGM, and speaker Paula Dyason talking about 'The Day of the Daylily'. Peony-Lovers of beautiful blooms will enjoy the 10 October meeting, with horticulturalist Gail Harland talking about Peonies Wild and Tame. Then 14 November the Abbey Fields team will report back on the iRecord butterfly system they've been using over the summer, followed by Robert Brett looking at 'the World through Plants'. Meetings are at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Rooms. Contact Richard Ackroyd 01223 236315 for more information.

## Getting it all sewn up

Histon members are at the heart of the 70-strong group of Cambridge Quilters who range from absolute beginners to professional quilters, all creating traditional



Moira Neal

to modern quilting and everything in between. This autumn their creations will be displayed on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October at Scotsdales' exhibition centre in Great Shelford, with local resident Moira Neal's work (pictured) among them. Go there to see what they get up to – or find them at one of their regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, 7pm-9pm at the Meadows Community Centre. More details at [www.cambridgequilters.com](http://www.cambridgequilters.com)

# Bereavement and loss – you are not alone

Being bereaved and facing life in very changed circumstances can bring distressing challenges. A six-week programme offering support is run by the village's Hope Again bereavement team, starting 14 September. Developed by trained local people and co-ordinated by an experienced counsellor, it covers topics including grief, self-care, memories and moving on. *For more details, or to book a place, phone 07707 263353 or email [hopeagain@hifriends.org.uk](mailto:hopeagain@hifriends.org.uk)*

## Take a walk on the wild side

Guy Richardson



Having achieved the amazing goal of securing Long Meadow (see cover photo) and Croft Close Set-Aside land for the community, the Histon & Impington Green Spaces charity is coming up with more inventive ways of involving the whole community in these wildlife havens and raising funds for their ongoing upkeep.

This year's chance to take part in the popular photographic competition to provide photos for the 2024 village calendar will close Saturday 30 September, with details on their website. Then on Friday afternoon 6 October there will be an Abbey Fields event on The Green, sharing more information about future activities and plans, an exhibition of winning entries to the young persons' photo competition that took place over the summer, and a cake sale... always a winner!

Abbey Farm owner Michael Watson will be talking at an evening event in September (check out the online calendar for details). And lots more opportunities to join guided walks and working parties will be announced there too. *Find photo competition details at [abbeyfields.online/photo-comp-2023-intro](http://abbeyfields.online/photo-comp-2023-intro) and forthcoming events at [abbeyfields.online/events-calendar](http://abbeyfields.online/events-calendar)*

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## Knowing your fixtures from your fittings

**Failing to disclose what you'll be taking with you when you move house could land you in hot water. Lucy Callington discovers the best way of avoiding conflict – and the courts.**

There have been cases of buyers receiving the keys to their new home, only to find that many of the items they saw on viewing had subsequently been stripped out. In extreme cases, unbeknownst to the unsuspecting buyer, houses have been gutted of everything from light fittings to radiators and doors. But more often disagreements can centre simply on whether white goods, carpets and built-in furniture fall under the terms of a sale.

To avoid nasty surprises Julia Schofield, Solicitor at Hayward Moon Property Lawyers, recommends that both parties be open and up-front about fixtures and fittings during the early stages of the transaction. “The earlier the better”, she says. “The Law Society Fitting and Contents Form TA10 can help with this and avoid wrangling over specific details later on.”

### Legally binding

The aim of this form is to make it crystal clear to the buyer which items are included in the sale. It must be completed accurately as it is legally binding for both the buyer and the seller. If the seller removes anything listed as included in the purchase price from the property on completion, they could find themselves liable to be sued.

While the TA10 form provides a legal checklist of which items are included in a sale – there is no specific legislation stipulating what should and shouldn't be included. Julia recommends “It's a good idea to keep a log of larger items, or those the buyer considers integral to the appeal of the purchase, and to keep a record of their values. This can then be included as part of the sale contract.”

### Know your fixtures from your fittings

The courts are frequently asked to clarify the difference between fixtures and fittings. Julia explains: “As a general rule, the greater the degree of annexation or physical connection the more likely an object is to be a fixture; and the easier it is to remove, the more likely it is to be a fitting.”

Fixtures are, as the name suggests, ‘fixed’ to the building or to the land. They can include integrated appliances, kitchen units and worktops, built-in wardrobes, radiators, toilets and central heating systems.

Fittings – or chattels, as they are referred to legally – are not

attached to the property unless by a screw or a nail, such as carpets, pictures and mirrors. Freestanding goods like fridges, washing machines and furniture are all potential ‘fittings’, as are internet-connected or smart devices and appliances. They all may or may not be included as part of a property sale.

### Is it essential?

Items that should be generally left behind by a seller are ‘essential’ fixtures such as the doorbell, carpets, plug and light sockets, curtain poles and light fittings. A seller who wants to remove a light fitting must replace it with a ceiling rose, flex, bulb holder and bulb to make good, and must record this on the Property Information Form.

The TA10 form is a great tool for identifying what's included in, and excluded from, the sale price, but as Julia concludes, “ultimately the seller must be reasonable and transparent and the buyer should be open and frank about their expectations in order for any sale to go smoothly.”

*H HUB sponsors, Hayward Moon, are conveyancing specialists throughout East Anglia with an office on Histon High Street. To find out more, contact Julia Schofield [www.haywardmoon.co.uk](http://www.haywardmoon.co.uk)*



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# Features

In case you missed them, here are just a few of the features on HI HUB that have celebrated community life in Histon & Impington over the past few months.



Read more HI HUB features about life in Histon & Impington at [www.hihub.info/features](http://www.hihub.info/features) or scan the QR code

## Not just jam and Jerusalem – getting to know our local WI

By Amanda Borrill

Ask what the Women's Institute (WI) means to people and it is likely the thoughts that spring to mind will include tradition, ceremony, cake, jam and, let's be honest, ladies of a certain age. But how about if I was to say 'environmentalists', 'makers of change' and 'activists' – surprising? It certainly surprised me. Perhaps it's time for a rethink on what this revolutionary group of women is achieving over tea and cake.

### A century of campaigning

For 100 years WI members have been campaigning and, as an organisation, have influenced a great deal of change. Did you know they were behind the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign? I had always credited that to the Wombles of Wimbledon Common but, no, it was a campaign by the WI back in 1954 to 'preserve the countryside against desecration'



Jubilee celebrations at the recreation ground 2022. HI WI keeping those afternoon teas coming

by litter' which started the ball rolling; subsequently leading to formation of the Keep Britain Tidy charity. I stand very corrected.

Their current campaign is entitled Thinking Differently: Autistic and ADHD Women and Girls, aiming to raise awareness of this condition and prompt action to improve the diagnosis process. For many members of Histon & Impington WI, this is a cause very close to their hearts and it's a theme that is certain to resonate with many.

### Something for everyone

Within the Cambridge Federation of the WI there are more than 50 institutes, all supported by their office in Girton, and one of these has been nestled in the midst of our community for over 90 years. Formed in 1927, the Histon & Impington branch recently celebrated its 95th birthday and marked the occasion, Secretary Helen Pinhey told me, in true WI style with a dinner prepared by eight of the committee and enjoyed by many of its members.

*Histon & Impington WI meets at Histon Methodist Church on the third Thursday of each month from 7.30pm–9pm. Get in touch by emailing [hisimpwi@gmail.com](mailto:hisimpwi@gmail.com)*

[Full article online](#)



steveccadman on VisualHunt.com

## Finding your tribe through vinyl

Given that vinyl now outsells CDs in the UK, more than a few music enthusiasts in the village will envy local resident Tam Cochrane. Eddy Moore found out how – and why – he shares his vinyl collection with others.

[Full articles online](#)

## Duke of Edinburgh students make dream clean-up team

Keep an eye out for some new recruits to Histon and Impington's merry band of litter pickers. Cedric Foster celebrates the new young faces that are a refreshing addition to the growing movement towards cleaner streets.



Louise Wilbraham

Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme pupils are 'highly visible' as they litter pick the local streets. Left-right: Sam, Henry, Zedie and Sammy.

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# Making music in the heart of Histon

By Lucy Callington

The old infants school building on New School Road, Histon, is at the heart of many a villager's cherished childhood memories. So when it was announced that Cambridgeshire Music was to take over the century old building in its entirety, many in the community breathed a collective sigh of relief. Relief that the building was to be re-purposed rather than knocked down – and that it would remain a creative centre at the heart of community.

Having outgrown its previous home in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire Music decided the old infants school was right for its purposes. Assistant Head Mark Aldous is enthusiastic: "It's perfect for us. For the first time in over 20 years we have dedicated spaces for workshop participants to come along and enjoy, as well as the ability to hold regular rehearsals for our various orchestras, bands and ensembles".

## Musical memories

Rooms that were once classrooms and staff rooms are now studios for music lessons, ensembles, classes and therapy sessions – 13 spaces in total – which can be used simultaneously.

Mark tells me: "We've enjoyed several visits from past students of the school and they always comment on how lovely it is to see the spaces retained in their original form. The oldest part of the school in particular holds special memories for those who attended. We haven't modified any of the building, so it's very recognisable still as the old Infant School."

[Full article online](#)

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## OUR UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

We regularly invite members of our local community to join us at our home for a variety of free events and get-togethers.

### **Weekly Community Singing**

*Every Monday at 3pm*

Do you have a passion for singing and would love to join a friendly, relaxed and welcoming group? If so, come and join our Bramley Community Singers where we will be learning new songs from across the decades in a relaxed and friendly environment. No previous singing experience needed – everyone is welcome.

### **Weekly Tai Chi**

*Every Wednesday at 6.30pm*

Feel the physiological and psychological benefits of Tai Chi during a weekly class which is suitable for all abilities.

### **Monthly Pub Quiz**

*Third Wednesday of every month at 3pm*

Put your general knowledge to the test during our monthly pub quiz – form your own team or join in with others.

### **Sunset Soirée**

*Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 3pm to 5pm*

Join us for live music from the Caxton Swing Band and enjoy some beautiful canapés and cocktails in the company of friends.

### **Christmas Extravaganza**

*Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 3pm onwards*

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From 5pm onwards, as the night falls, we will be officially turning on our Christmas lights and getting into the festive spirit with some carol singing.

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# Spotlight | Histon Manor

## Home is where the heart is



Histon Manor

**From crooked solicitors to cartographers and florists, Histon Manor has seen an eclectic mix of owners across the years. Amanda Borrill sits down with current ‘lady of the manor’, Katherine Mann, to talk about what drives her to open both her heart and home to the community.**

Rewind to 2018 and the village of Histon was a virtual unknown to Katherine Mann and husband Rob. Until, that is, a mystery house hunting tour introduced to them the fabulous Histon Manor – a property not yet even on the market. The rest, as they say, is history.

The couple left London life for Cambridge, where they had first met at University and transitioned with ease to village life in Histon: “I have never felt so welcome anywhere before”, Katherine enthused. “I can’t even begin to list the number of groups I’ve got to know. There is such lovely camaraderie within the village and I’ve met and continue to meet some wonderful individuals.”

### Charity begins at home

Over the last five years, alongside busy careers, the couple have been working hard to create not only a comfortable home for themselves and their teenage children, but also a venue hosting the most fabulous series of events to which the entire community gets invited and local charities benefit.

From Open Gardens, to Holiday at Home, the Snowdrop Walk, Men’s Shed afternoon tea, a Dahlia-filled Village Show and a recent dip into the world of antiques, for visitors, the cherry on top has been the opportunity to take tea and cake in that amazing kitchen – lavished with a sense of style only the very elegant Katherine could bestow. And all set within 11 acres of glorious gardens that would throw shade on any stately home challenger.

Historically, the grounds of Histon Manor have remained something of a mystery to many and I asked Katherine what drives them to open up their family home to us all. “I have always been very interested in local history and I love meeting people”, she explained. “Just a few weeks after we moved here I took the plunge and invited the Village Society committee round for tea. It soon became apparent that there was a lot of local interest in the house and gardens!”

*Tea and cake in the Histon Manor kitchen*



Val Robson

Thus began their involvement in Open Gardens. “1,500 people came pouring into the grounds that year”, Katherine laughs. “We just couldn’t believe it... but, amidst the chaos, we had so much fun.” Open Gardens is now a regular on Histon Manor’s calendar – with the prospect of delicious hot scones guaranteed to draw in the crowds.

### Laughter is the best medicine

Katherine is clearly someone who adores being sociable and has developed a very special relationship with many of the village’s older residents. The Thursday Together group and the recently revived Holiday at Home have become two of her ‘must do’ activities, and the tea party she hosted for the launch of Holiday at Home is up there amongst her favourite ever occasions. “This was the first large event since lockdown, which was such a lonely time for many”, she reflects. “Lots of the older residents I had got to know came along and it was also the very first event we had organised with the wellbeing charity HI Friends. Many of the 75 visitors hadn’t been to a large event for years so it was great fun, but also a deeply emotional occasion.”



*Katherine Mann and HI Friends Older People's Worker Paul Seekings paddle at Hunstanton*

The joy Holiday at Home brings is precious. "Most people know I have a soft spot for the older residents in the community", she smiled "and I love doing things with them. We had a great trip to Hunstanton recently where I laughed out loud for the whole day – you can't ask for more than that!"

### **Family Life**

When the sun goes down on these community activities, Histon Manor returns, once again, to a family home – albeit one a little different to those they've known before. "Let's say we were very, very naïve when we moved here", Katherine revealed. "We had no idea how much work the gardens would be to redesign and look after! We have a fabulous gardener, Paul Laston, who has now become a good friend and blitzes weekly. Then Rob and I, along with my very helpful parents, lose many weekends to weeding and digging. Luckily our son Theo is really keen to use the ride-on mower and loves to help out, which is fab."

For the younger members of the family, these five years will have seen big changes in their lives and I asked Katherine how they find life at Histon Manor? "I'm not sure any of our children notice their surroundings, as they are, quite rightly, totally wrapped up in their own lives and enjoying their teenage years", Katherine replies. "They definitely find it annoying they no longer live quite so close to Cambridge city centre", she admitted, "and I'm very mean with the heating in the winter as I worry about our carbon footprint, so they moan a lot about it being cold... but they love it really and our kitchen is a great place for a party!"

### **Into the future**

So, what lies ahead for Histon Manor? The house has recently been launched as a venue for a limited number of wedding receptions, private parties and even film shoots – perhaps we will see the likes of Tom Cruise or Kate Winslet dropping in for a pint at one of our local pubs?



*Formal garden at Histon Manor*

Best of all, revenue from these events will be reinvested in the Manor grounds and the family hope that everyone will benefit. I asked social butterfly and music lover Katherine – if she could choose to have any gig hosted in the grounds of Histon Manor, what or who would it be? "Now this may surprise you", she laughed "but I would be very keen to have Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet. I saw him recently at Shelford Feast and he was just fab! Second choice would be an Ibiza Anthems night – let's hope someone chooses one of those for the entertainment set at their wedding!"

*Find out more about Histon Manor at [www.histonmanor.com](http://www.histonmanor.com)*



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# Village profile

## | Who are we?

The 2021 census has shed new light on the lives of residents in Histon & Impington. Starting here with some headline figures, hilights will be delving further into the data in future issues.

1

### Population size

# 8135

(Histon & Impington Parish, excluding Kings Meadows and Orchard Park)

Histon & Impington make up 5% of South Cambridgeshire's population. South Cambs itself has grown by 9% since the 2011 census, compared with 6.6% for England as a whole.

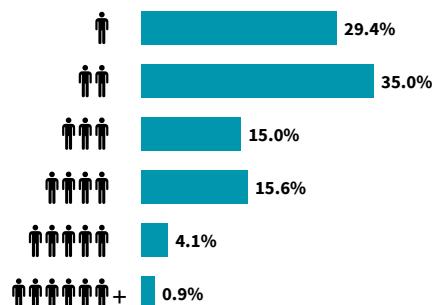
2

### Number of households



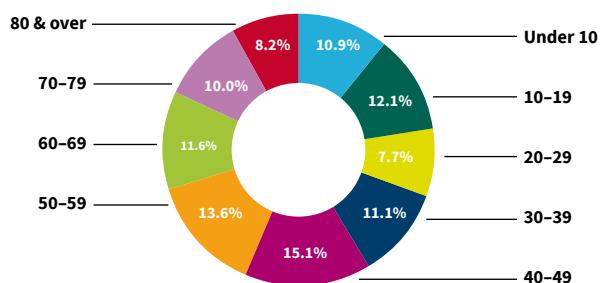
3

### Household size



4

### Age



Children and young people are well represented in village, but could the dip among those in their twenties reflect the lure of big cities and the high cost of housing in the village?

5

### In full time education (aged 5 or over)

# 1479

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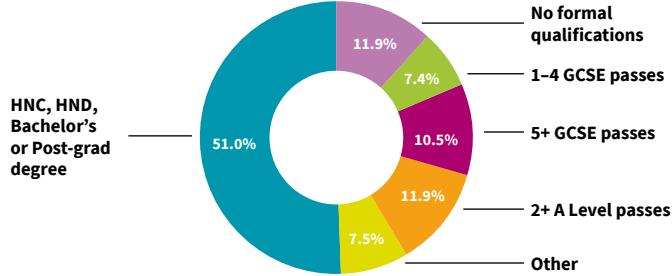
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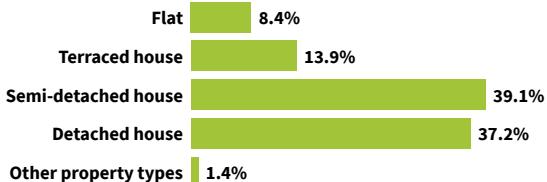
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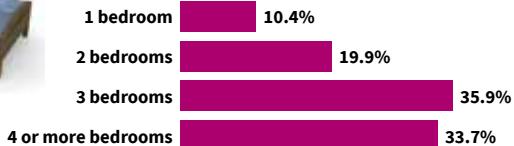
While one in three people in England and Wales have degree-level qualifications, in Histon & Impington that's over half. And the number with no formal qualifications is also significantly less than the national average of 18%.

## Accommodation type



8

## Number of bedrooms



Although nearly two-thirds of the village population live in one- or two-person households, over two-thirds live in properties with 3 or more bedrooms.

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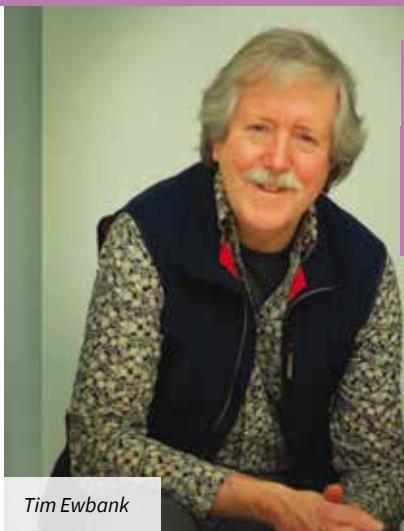
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Tim Ewbank

**With more of us than ever stepping back from full-time work, it is good to know there's a whole new world of learning out there for the taking. Amanda Borrill meets Impington resident Tim Ewbank to hear more about life in the 'third age'.**

Inspiring. Educational. Sociable. Until a few months ago, I had never heard of the University of the Third Age Cambridge (U3AC). Yet right here in Histon & Impington, many locals are already enjoying getting inspired, educated and sociable with U3AC.

Established in Toulouse, France, U3A was brought to the UK in 1982 by two Cambridge academics. Self-financing and run by its members for the benefit of its members, U3AC is an independent charitable organisation committed to lifelong learning for people no longer in full-time employment. There are no age restrictions, and with 320+ courses and activities open to its 2400 members, you would be hard pushed not to find something of interest.

Chairman of U3AC, Tim Ewbank, lives in Impington with his wife Moira and "small feisty lockdown cat" Miss Darcey. Big supporters of the popular community biennial Open Gardens, their garden at Lansdowne House is always an event highlight.

### Something for everyone

Nine years into his involvement with U3AC, Tim is as enthusiastic as ever about what membership has to offer and over coffee he tells me, "the range of subjects on offer is bewildering. I enjoy learning about subjects I've

## Never too late to learn something new

thought were vaguely interesting, but have never had time to study. Also, going back to subjects I once knew something about and on which I can now refresh my understanding. In scientific subjects in particular, knowledge has moved on massively."

Tim is a great fan of the U3A model, which allows for members to be both tutor and student at the same time: "In most educational establishments, one is clearly either a teacher or a student, but I can attend a class one day and next day I might be running a class in which yesterday's tutor is now an attendee." He has run many courses over the years on topics including photography, world exploration and, his most popular, making the best of your iPad. "There is a fairly constant ratio of 1:8 (12%) of members who offer to run classes or organise activities", Tim explains. "U3AC takes good care too of new tutors with a range of support through workshops, online materials & buddy schemes."

### Inspiring others

Skimming through the 2023/24 U3AC course programme, I spot several well-known local names. Amongst them Andrew Grimmer and Don Kelly.

Andrew was inspired by his wife Audrey's love of U3AC following her retirement from our village Infant School. When it came time for him to retire, he joined too. His first three classes were World Music, The Spanish Civil War, and Lifelines – a writing course led by Impington resident Judy Wilson. "Our inspirational World Music tutor, Colin Whitworth, also ran an Abstract Art class", Andrew recalled. "I joined with fellow classmate, Greg – despite not having painted since school days", he laughed. "Over the next couple of years I became part of a 24-strong class of people with varying degrees of skill and knowledge exploring the world of abstract art. Colin's decision to step down prompted me and Greg to take over – sharing the lead between us."

Six years later the group is still

going strong with some of the class having exhibited at small galleries in Cambridge and others, including Histon's Tam Cochrane, taking part in art event, Open Studios.

Don's journey with U3AC also began in retirement with one of his first classes being a game he hadn't played for 40 years – Canasta. "I used to play with my family when I was a child", he recalls. "In those days there were only two TV channels and if nothing was on we would break out the cards!" Like Andrew, when the original tutor stepped back Don took over. "In truth", he says, "there isn't much tutoring once the new players each year have grasped the basics. We just play cards and thoroughly enjoy doing so. This year there were twelve of us, three of whom live in Histon & Impington. If I had more time, I would do many more courses."

And there it is. The time word.

That most precious of commodities.

Stepping back from the world of full-time work can gift us all more of it. Time to learn, time to socialise – time perhaps for U3AC.

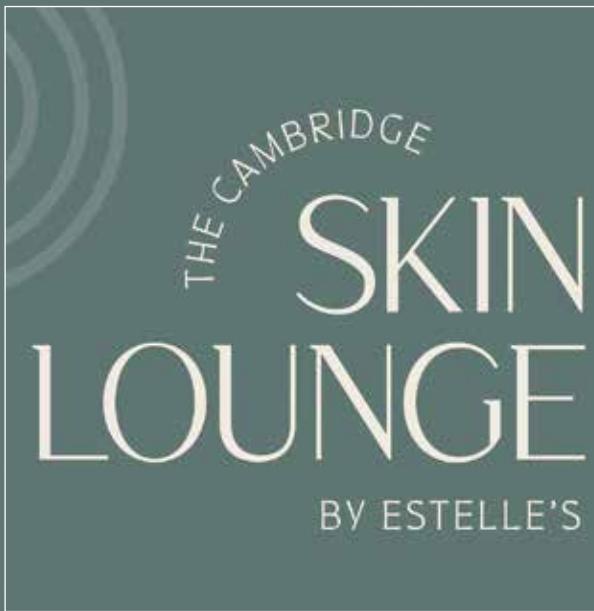
*University of the Third Age in Cambridge is based at Bridge Street Cambridge. Find out more at [www.u3ac.org.uk](http://www.u3ac.org.uk).*

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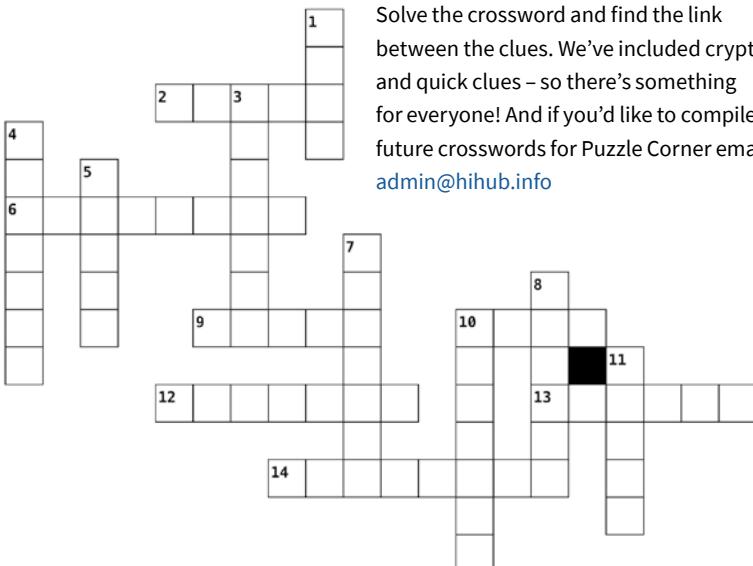
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# Puzzle corner |

## Crossword

Solve the crossword and find the link between the clues. We've included cryptic and quick clues – so there's something for everyone! And if you'd like to compile future crosswords for Puzzle Corner email [admin@hihub.info](mailto:admin@hihub.info)



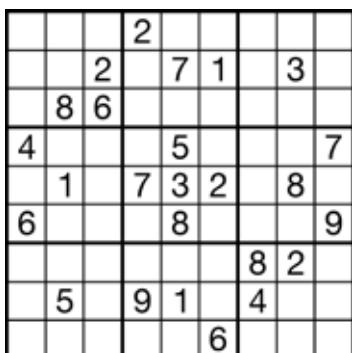
## Where is this?

You'll find all of these places in  
Histon & Impington... but where?



## Sudoku

We've chosen a puzzle described as 'medium difficulty' for this first issue of hilights. What do you think? Email [admin@hihub.info](mailto:admin@hihub.info)



*The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Sudoku puzzles are provided by [www.sudokuoftheday.com](http://www.sudokuoftheday.com) – visit them and get a new Sudoku every day.*

Crossword Sudoku

Crossword Sudoku

## Across

2. A quick look at some old diaries (5)
6. Not Mayfair, but the same blue (4,4)
9. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck it could be one of these (5)
10. This deer lives in Tottenham (4)
12. Wear this colour to renounce the material world (7)
13. Is Caroline Aherne on 'Have I got News for You?' (6)
14. Downing Street in the country (8)

Down

1. Go there young man (4)
3. Trail-blazing hifi (7)
4. Cut back to ground level to stimulate growth (7)
5. A place to farm in the Scottish Isles (5)
7. Claim this if you're unemployed (3,4)
8. 2,3,5,7,11,13 etc (6)
10. Carnivores take part in a chase (7)
11. Blue and yellow but not red (5)

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# Getting to know... Dan Mace



Dan Mace, cycling in Majorca – one of “too many selfies”.

## Some people leave a longer legacy than others and Dan Mace is destined to be one of them.

The driving force behind much of the village's tree planting since he came to live in Histon in 1992, you might expect him to be a biologist by profession. In fact he is a practising physicist who moved from Cambridge to Histon because his wife Penny worked in St Ives and didn't want to drive through town to work. His own priority was cycling to his job, “so Histon was an obvious choice”.

An empty-nester now that his two children, Sam and Catherine, have left home, he's not short of things to do. Having been part of the team that established the Histon and Impington Community Orchard Project, he still runs this and also set up the HI Trees group at the heart of the village's efforts to mitigate climate change. He is on the Feast Committee and only recently stepped down as Chair of the Fireworks Extravaganza (“setting off the fireworks is an other-worldly experience”). And for leisure? It's cycling with Histon and Impington Bicycle Club (“the action of pedalling is very therapeutic for reasons I don't understand, and the social side is great too”).

### First ever paid work?

Collating documents at a printer's in Sheffield. We'd have to lay out 30 page-1s around a table followed by 30 page-2s, so you spent your day walking around and around making piles of paper... it proved to me I wanted a more interesting job.

### Artistic talents?

Almost none... although actually I'm quite good at design. My art teacher and I both knew I was hopeless at painting and drawing but he recognised I could design things and had me design an ever-changing set for the school talent show.

### Which superpower would you like?

Time creation. There is never enough of it.

### Best holiday ever?

Oooof – a lot to choose from. Driving to communist Poland in a minibus with caving student friends in 1988 (before the wall came down), and trekking in Nepal. But I love the wilder parts of the UK. I grew up near the Peak District, have spent a lot of time in Snowdonia, and my family would be disappointed if I didn't mention the North York Moors.

### Guilty pleasures?

Late night snacks of peanut butter sandwiches and ice cream. Not together, but sometimes one after the other. And taking too many selfies.

### First car?

Renault 5. Never been that interested in cars. Now bicycles on the other hand...

### Most embarrassing moment?

Not always recognising people when they talk to me. I use my mother-in-law's technique of asking very open questions to give me a clue. So if I ask you how the family is, then you know I'm embarrassed inside.

### Cat or dog?

Cat. We have two. I love the idea of a dog but I don't have time. We looked after a cousin's dog for a week and that convinced me.

### How your partner/friends would describe you?

Logical.

### Historic heroes?

The younger Thomas Cromwell... as depicted by Hilary Mantel in Wolf Hall. So assured and so on top of things. And Victorian inventors and engineers fascinate me... Brunel, Henry Bessemer (steel), William Armstrong, whose house was hydroelectrically powered. A great age.

### Beer or wine?

Both, in moderation, and increasingly so these days. I love a pint of craft ale from a small brewery, preferably after a day on the hills, and a chunky red wine with a meal.

### Favourite ever shoes?

Not emotionally attached to shoes – although I'd miss my walking boots.

### Most unappealing habit?

Taking on too much.

### Favourite band?

Born in the 60s and grew up in the 80s. Simple Minds takes me right back to student days and student friends.

### What last made you angry?

Thoughtlessness and needless stupidity wind me up, but I'm probably not alone there. The '2023 leavers' graffiti on the Community Orchard bench falls firmly into that category!

### Most successful sporting moment?

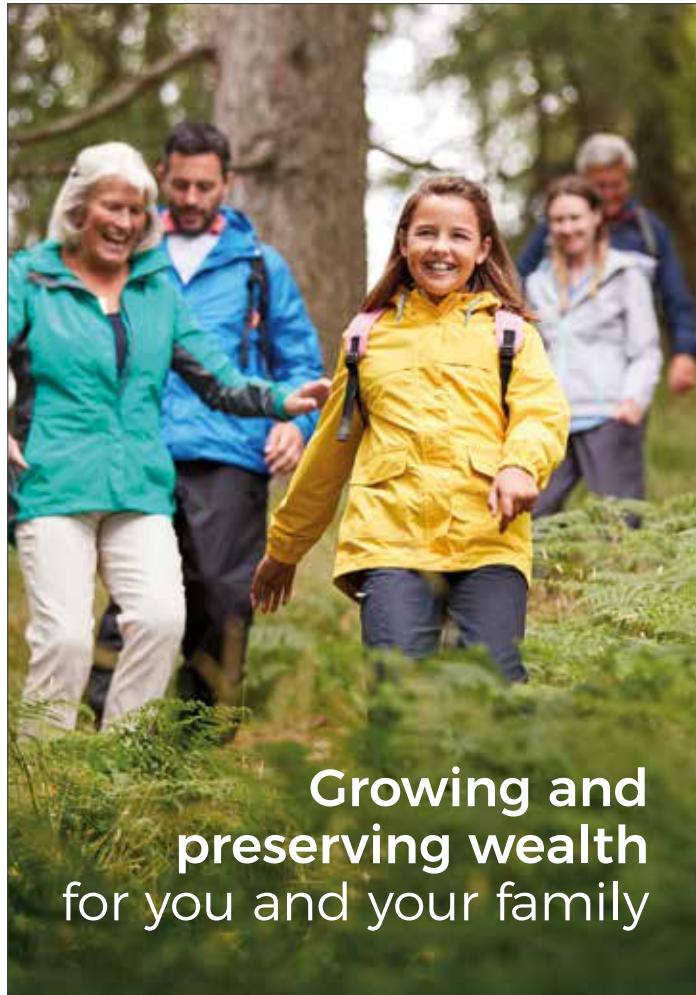
I was disastrous at team sports at school, although bizarrely quite enjoyed them. So I never won a cup – I'm not sure I was ever on a winning side! In my caving days I visited places that no-one on earth had ever visited. I have my own 'What three Words'... try typing "Dan's bold step" into Google and looking for the photo of a leap, 500m underground.

### Best thing about Histon & Impington?

The community. So much going on, for all ages, all interests, and lots of wonderful and interesting people who make it all happen. It amazes me.

### Worst thing about Histon & Impington?

I hate to end on a negative note, but we do have an issue of not enough things to do for young people, particularly for those not into sport. I don't think we recognise this as a community. If we did we'd have done something about this years ago, and would be continuing to do things.



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